

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00717 291024Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----291030Z 021951 /17
O 290950Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

S E C R E T MANAMA 717

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : MORG, BA
SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE: CABINET APPROVES NEW FORMAT

REF : STATE 67623

1. FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMED ME MARCH 29 THAT CABINET APPROVED NEW FORMAT CONCEPT DURING MARCH 27 MEETING. FOREIGN MINISTER AND I SCHEDULED MEET AGAIN MARCH 31. HE HAS AGREED TO CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE QUOTED REFTEL. REALIZE PRESSURES IN DEPT. BUT ANSWERS TO ANY OF FONMIN'S QUESTIONS REPORTED MANAMA 676 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. IN MARCH 31 MEETING WITH FONMIN MY APPROACH WILL CONTINUE TO BE TO PRESERVE MAXIMUM PORT TIME AND SHORE FACILITIES. PENDING 175 AUTHORITY, I WILL OF COURSE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT, ON USG SIDE AT LEAST, TALKS STILL INFORMAL. NOW THAT GOB HAS GIVEN FORMAL APPROVAL, AND GIVEN PRESSING NEED FOR MIDEASTFOR TO HAVE DETAILS SETTLED, I WOULD HOPE WE COULD MOVE TO FORMAL TALKS VERY SOON.

3. THE QUID PRO QUO SHOE HAS YET TO DROP IN THESE TALKS AND WHEN IT DOES I WOULD LIKE TO BE ARMED WITH AT LEAST A MINIMAL RESPONSE. USG'S WORLD-WIDE REVIEW OF ARMS SALES POLICY PROVIDES AMPLE GENERAL REPLY TO ANY GOB QUESTION ABOUT WHAT ARMS WE

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MIGHT AGREE TO SELL. BUT QUESTION ABOUT WHAT A REASONABLE BDF POSTURE OUGHT TO BE, WHICH WE UNDERTOOK TO ANSWER, WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE. GOB UNDERSTANDS THAT DEFENSE SURVEY REPORT IS NOT OFFER TO SELL AND WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DELIVER REPORT SOON. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING STATUS OF DEFENSE SURVEY REPORT.

4. DEPT. PLEASE REPEAT TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY ADDRESSEES.
CLUVERIUS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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